

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 16 were canceled, and their subject matter was added to claims 5 and 10, respectively. Entry of these amendments is as a matter of right.

U.S. Patent Publication Serial No. 2002/0049009 to Rabenstein discloses a plug pin 1 for insertion into a metal sleeve 12. The sleeve 12 is inserted into a plaster model for dental technique and has a narrowed area 16 to lock the plug pin 1 (Fig. 2). By contrast, such a narrowed area is not present in applicants' arrangement, and the applicants' model tooth is not inserted into an oral cavity of a patient, nor fixed in it at all.

Further, as described in amended claims 5 and 10, the fixing part of the applicants' model tooth is detachably connected to the root part. In various dental practices (such as scaling, extraction and rubber dam clamp), a wide range of retention is required and several types of the fixing part are assumed to be exchangeable. As the fixing part has a symmetrical form with respect to the central axis in the applicants' model tooth, no problem arises with precisely fitting the fixing part.

According to Rabenstein, fitting, removal and maintaining force of the plug pin are changed by the fitting by pins and the presence of a rotation-preventing surface (Figs. 2 to 6/Figs. 4 to 15). Hence, it is difficult to exchange the plug pins while maintaining the precision of direction and height of each plug pin.

Further, Rabenstein does not disclose that a head portion is greater in dimension than a shaft portion, nor that a model base for receiving a fixing part of the tooth that has a locking snap fit action with the fixing part, is in the shape of a human jaw.

Also, in the disclosures of U.S. Patent No. 5,030,102 to Lang and U.S. Patent No. 3,458,936 to Schulz, the fixing part is not of split pin structure, and the pulling force is decided by the material and form of the jaw model. Therefore, it is difficult to change the pulling force by an exchange of the fixing part.

Furthermore, none of the references cited in the final office action discloses that a fixing part is constituted of an elastically deformable synthetic resin having a bend elastic modulus of 800 to 10,000 MPa, and that the maximum protuberant height of the enlarged part is 5-50% of the outer diameter of the fixing part and that 30-90% of this protuberant height is engaged with the locking part.

As discussed above, the applied art does not teach each and every characteristic of the invention recited in each of the amended claims, nor suggests the model tooth for dental practice or the arrangement for dental practice of the present invention. Therefore, each of the inventions defined in the amended claims cannot have been made by a person skilled in the art on the basis of the disclosures described in the cited references.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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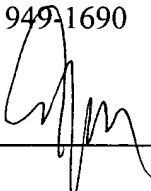
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